



## Department of the Interior

# Lands Legacy Initiative

The Department of the Interior (DOI) FY2000 budget proposed to invest \$579 million in support of the President's \$1.0 billion Lands Legacy Initiative, an increase of \$354.5 million over FY1999 levels. These funds would help preserve, protect and restore America's natural and cultural heritage for our children's and grandchildren's enjoyment, use and contemplation. This has become increasingly more urgent as the U.S. population continues to increase, spread out and encroach upon open spaces and habitat. Funding will be used for: preserving and protecting our most important and threatened ecosystems, recreational areas, and habitat for endangered species; supporting endangered species protection strategies that will be undertaken in cooperation with state and local governments, and private entities; and providing state and local agencies with matching grants for planning for and preserving open spaces, habitat, greenways, outdoor recreation and urban parks.

### Federal Land Acquisition

The Lands Legacy initiative includes \$163.7 million in FY 2000 for land acquisitions by the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Land Management, for five major areas:

- *California Desert.* It is proposed to

landings using \$50.0 million from BLM's share of the LWCF and, under a cooperative agreement, \$25.0 million from the Catellus Corporation and the Wildlands Conservancy.

- *Civil War Battlefields.* The 2000 budget would begin a three year

initiative to fully complete acquisition of land in all authorized Civil War battlefields. The first year's installment of \$22.0 million (for the NPS) includes \$5.7 million to acquire three tracts to prevent further development at Gettysburg NMP; \$6.3 million for several sites in Fredericksburg-Spotsylvania NMP; and \$400,000 for six high-priority parcels at Manassas NBP. The 2000 budget will complete acquisition at: Pecos NHP Glorieta

NB, VA (\$1.5 million); Monocacy NB, MD (\$1.5 million); and Antietam NB, MD (\$2.0 million).

- *Lewis and Clark Trail.* In order to help celebrate the bicentennial of this historic 1803 expedition, the Department proposes \$8.5 million for

BLM and FWS to begin a multi-year initiative for creative partnerships with States, local communities, and private landowners to protect viewsheds and historic sites along the trail corridor. Land acquisition will be identified and consummated in cooperation with local communities.

- *Northern Forests.* In order to conserve appropriate portions of the 26 million acres of Northern Forest, a

landowners will identify and implement the best ways to provide balanced use of the area's recreation, timber, wetlands, wildlife and other resources. For 2000, FWS proposes \$13.2 million for acquisition within the multi-State Silvio O. Conte NWR (in Massachusetts, New

### Budget Authority (Millions of Dollars)

	1999 Appropriation	2000 Funding Request
<b>Federal Land Acquisition</b>		
NPS .....	147.9	172.5
BLM .....	14.6	48.9
FWS .....	48.0	73.6
Subtotal .....	210.5	295.0
<b>Open Space and Recreation Grants (National Park Service)</b>		
Land Conservation Grants .....	0	150.0
Open Space Planning Grants .....	0	50.0
Urban Parks and Recreation .....	0	4.0
Subtotal .....	0	204.0
<b>Cooperative Endangered Species Grants (Fish and Wildlife Service)</b>	14.0	80.0

Hampshire, and Vermont) and various Maine national wildlife refuges to complement state initiatives and recent agreements for the sale of 500,000 acres in New York and Vermont by major timber companies to national conservation organizations.

- *Everglades*. To assist in Everglades restoration, the Department's budget contains \$84.0 million in FY 2000. This includes \$20 million for the NPS to acquire 110,000 additional acres in Everglades NP which will complete acquisition within the authorized boundaries of the park; \$11.8 million for NPS acquisitions in Big Cypress National Preserve; \$45.6 million to continue partnering with the State of Florida to acquire land for Everglades restoration; and \$4.0 million for the FWS for preserving and protecting Sanibel Island's unique vegetation and habitat in the J.N. "Ding" Darling NWR.

An additional \$130.3 million is envisioned for acquiring lands and protecting other critical resources, ranging from the addition of 31 acres at Florida's Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge, to the acquisition of 1,950 acres for an addition to Hawaii National Park.

#### **Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation**

This initiative, administered by the FWS, provides funds for State and local land acquisition to protect and restore threatened and endangered species; for grants to states for habitat conservation

planning; and for recovery of listed and candidate species. By supporting Habitat Conservation Plans, Candidate Conservation Agreements, Safe Harbor Agreements, and other flexible tools under the Endangered Species Act, the Fund promotes collaborative strategies that sustain both wildlife and economic development. The Federal grant assistance will help facilitate smart growth by reconciling development needs with the conservation of listed species. The Lands Legacy initiative proposes investment of \$26.0 million for the [recently validated] IICP land grant acquisition program. The Section 6 grants program is funded at \$50.5 million. These investments address the exploding demand by States, municipalities, and private parties for the innovative programs the Administration has developed to reconcile economic growth with species conservation. Twenty-five Safe Harbor agreements are in various stages of development and are expected to cover an additional 302,000 acres (over a baseline of 36,000 acres) of private land for the benefit of listed and declining species.

#### **Open Space & Recreation Grants**

The President's Lands Legacy initiative proposes to invest \$204 million in state and local initiatives for open space planning, land acquisition for conservation purposes, and recreation through three competitive grant programs. These include:

- \$50.0 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for matching

grants to States and Indian Tribes to develop open space plans emphasizing smart growth strategies. The program will award grants competitively with priority for proposals developing or improving State open space protection plans and tying them to regional strategies for balancing growth, infrastructure development, quality of life concerns, and avoiding land use conflicts.

- \$150.0 million for LWCF matching grants to State, local, and tribal governments for acquisition of land and easements for open spaces, greenways, outdoor recreation, urban parks, wildlife habitat, and coastal wetlands. This program revives the LWCF state sharing program with a new emphasis on open space preservation. Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis with priority going to projects consistent with statewide open space plans. This program is funded in the National Park Service and will be coordinated with the Interior bureaus and other Federal agencies. The Administration will work in partnership with the Congress on developing selection criteria for this competitive program.

- \$4.0 million for a demonstration program for urban parks and recreation restoration. The demonstration program will provide matching grants for the restoration of several parks in economically distressed urban communities. UPARR, administered by the NPS, awarded over 1,200 grants from 1978 to 1995, but has not been funded since 1995.